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DCF honors six social workers for outstanding service to families ***Caring for Kids Awards presented during Social Work Month***

(MADISON) – In recognition of Gov. Scott Walker's [proclamation](#) declaring March as Social Work Month in Wisconsin, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) honored the efforts of six county child welfare professionals with the 2017 Caring for Kids award.

Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) Division of Safety and Permanence Administrator, Fredi Bove, presented the awards during a ceremony today at the State Capitol. The six professionals representing the Menominee Tribe and Milwaukee, Waupaca, Crawford, Brown and Outagamie Counties, were honored for their exceptional dedication to serving the people in their communities.

"These awards serve as a way to recognize the hard work and dedication of the caring professionals who help children and families reach their full potential," said DCF Secretary Eloise Anderson. "People who do social work assist others, especially the most vulnerable, in all stages of life and help them meet the basic needs of safety and stability."

Presented with awards were:

- Natalie Doemel of the Waupaca County Department of Health and Human Services
- Paulette Drankiewicz of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services, Milwaukee County
- Bruce Elvert of Crawford County Health and Human Services
- Mary Husby (retired) of Menominee Tribal Social Services
- Mary VandenHeuvel of Brown County Health and Human Services
- Bridget Wirtz of Outagamie County Foster Care

Award selection criteria included years of service and experience, adapting to new initiatives, advocacy, leadership and a proven record of ensuring the well-being of children and families.

Visit the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families website at www.dcf.wi.gov.